Atty. Docket No.: 448563/0157

5005 E

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

licants:

Hiroaki Sekizawa

Serial No.:

09/226,332

Art Unit:

2181

Filed:

January 6, 1999

Examiner:

G. Ray

For:

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MONITORING THE STATE OF

A PLURALITY OF MACHINES CONNECTED VIA A

COMPUTER NETWORK

January 25, 2002

AMENDMENT RESPONSIVE TO OCTOBER 31, 2001 OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Amendment is filed in response to an Office Action mailed on October 31, 2001 (the "Office Action"), a response to which is due no later than January 31, 2002. Accordingly, this Amendment is being timely filed.

Certificate of Mailing (37 C.F.R. 1.8)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on (Date)

January 25, 2002

Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate:

Helen Giglio

Signature:

(h)